

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /054 W
-----030954Z 051138 /16

P 030810Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 708
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
CNO WASHDC PRIORITY
CMC WASHDC PRIORITY
CSAF (JACI) WASHDC PRIORITY
NAVY JAG WASHDC PRIORITY
CHNAVPERS PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
CINCPACFLT PRIORITY
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB PRIORITY
COMUSNAVPHIL SUBIC PRIORITY
13AF CLARK PRIORITY
3CSG CLARK PRIORITY
NAVLEGSVCOFF SUBIC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, RP
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL DUTY CASE: VERPLAETSE

REF: MANILA 8371, DTG R 010724Z JUN 77

1. ON JUNE 3, 1977 EMBASSY RECEIVED DIPLOMATIC NOTE NO.
1707-77 FROM THE DFA WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE CASE OF COMMANDER RONALD
VERPLAETSE, U.S. NAVY EXCHANGE OFFICER AT THE SUBIC NAVAL
BASE, AGAINST WHOM CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES HAVE BEEN FILED
IN THE COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE AND CITY COURT OF OLONGAPO
CITY.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED BY MR. RUBEN O.

DE CAMPO, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF FILIPINO EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION IN THE U.S. BASES, THAT COMMANDER VERPLAETSE IS REPORTEDLY DEPARTING FROM THE PHILIPPINES. IN VIEW OF THE PENDING CASES AGAINST HIM, AND ALSO OF THE PROTEST OF THE DEPARTMENT TO THE EMBASSY REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF DUTY CERTIFICATE IN HIS FAVOR BY THE BASE COMMANDER AT SUBIC IN CONNECTION WITH THE ILLEGAL SEARCH ON THE PERSON OF SOME FILIPINO WOMEN EMPLOYEES OF THE BASE, WHICH WILL BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS OF THE HIGHER-LEVEL TALKS BEING PROPOSED BY THE EMBASSY BETWEEN PHILIPPINE AND AMERICAN AUTHORITIES, IT IS HEREBY STRONGLY URGED UPON THE U.S. AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT HIS DEPARTURE UNTIL THE CASE AGAINST HIM SHALL HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY SETTLED.

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS...END QUOTE

2. UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED, EMBASSY PLANS TO RESPOND NEXT WEEK WITH THE FOLLOWING:

QUOTE...USUAL COMPLIMENTARY OPENING...HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE NO. 1707-77, DATED JUNE 3, 1977, CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CHARGES FILED AGAINST COMMANDER RONALD A. VERPLAETSE, USN.

THE EMBASSY WISHES TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT THAT THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS IN THE MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT OF 1947, AS AMENDED, THAT OBLIGATES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT THE TRANSFER OF COMMANDER VERPLAETSE IN A SITUATION IN WHICH A CIVIL ACTION HAS BEEN FILED NOR DOES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE UNITED STATES MILITARY HAVE AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT THE TRAVEL OF A UNITED STATES MILITARY SERVICEMAN UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR CIVIL CASES TO TAKE AN EXTENSIVE PERIOD TO RESOLVE AND IF APPEALS ARE FILED BY EITHER PARTY SUCH CASES MAY REQUIRE YEARS TO BE FINALIZED. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS NOT REASONABLE OR FEASIBLE TO RESTRICT THE MOVEMENTS OF COMMANDER VERPLAETSE PENDING FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE CIVIL CASES FILED AGAINST HIM.

THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST COMMANDER VERPLAETSE WAS CONVEYED TO THE DEPARTMENT IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 316, DATED JUNE 1, 1977.

THE EMBASSY AVAILS ITSELF...END QUOTE

3. COMMENT: TIMES JOURNAL JUNE 2 CARRIED FRONT-PAGE REPORT THAT DE OCAMPO HAD SENT TELEGRAMS TO SECRETARIES ROMULO

AND ABAD SANTOS NOTING HE HAD INFORMATION THAT VERPLAETSE
WOULD BE REASSIGNED THIS MONTH AND ASKING GOP TO FORESTALL
HIS DEPARTURE. EVENING POST JUNE 3 RAN BANNER HEADLINE QUOTE
INDECENT SEARCH CASE -- DON'T LET USN MAN LEAVE UNQUOTE
WITH STORY THAT ACTING JUSTICE SECRETARY MACARAIG HAD
SENT LETTER SAME DAY TO FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO ASKING
DFA TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO PREVENT VERPLAETSE'S
REPORTED DEPARTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, INVESTIGATIONS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA08620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770198-0292
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770693/aaaaddtd.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 835cc785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 8371
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2289486
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL DUTY CASE: VERPLAETSE
TAGS: MILI, MARR, RP, (VERPLAETSE, RONALD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/835cc785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009